

In the Claims:

Claims 8-20 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1, 3-7 and 21-27 are pending

1) (currently amended) A fusion protein for the alleviation of symptoms associated with an autoimmune disorder selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis and ~~Type I insulin-dependent diabetes~~ mellitus comprising an immunoglobulin or portion thereof linked to one or more T cell receptor antagonists wherein said immunoglobulin or portion thereof comprises at least part of a domain of a constant region of an immunoglobulin molecule and is capable of binding to an Fc receptor of an antigen presenting cell and being endocytosed by the antigen presenting cell wherein said fusion protein binds to newly synthesized MHC Class II molecules, forming a complex which migrates to said antigen presenting cell surface and engages autoreactive T cells specific for said T cell receptor antagonist and said T cell receptor antagonist is specific for autoreactive T cells associated with said autoimmune disease, to present said one or more T cell receptor antagonists in association with endogenous MHC Class II molecules, thereby preventing activation of autoreactive T cells specific for said T cell receptor antagonist.

2) (cancelled)

3) (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 1 wherein the immunoglobulin or portion thereof comprises a human IgG molecule or portion thereof.

4) (currently amended) The fusion protein of claim 1 wherein said one or more T cell receptor antagonists alleviates the symptoms associated with an autoimmune disorder selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, ~~lupis,~~ rheumatoid arthritis, ~~scleroderma,~~ Type I insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, ~~and ulcerative colitis.~~

5) (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 1 wherein said one or more T cell receptor antagonists is derived from myelin basic protein.

6) (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 1 wherein said one or more T cell receptor antagonists is derived from proteolipid protein.

7) (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 1 wherein said one or more T cell receptor antagonists is derived from myelin basic protein and from proteolipid protein.

8) (cancelled)

9) (cancelled)

10) (cancelled)

11) (cancelled)

12) (cancelled)

13) (cancelled)

14) (cancelled)

15) (cancelled)

16) (cancelled)

17) (cancelled)

18) (cancelled)

19) (cancelled)

20) (cancelled)

21) (currently amended) A fusion protein for the treatment of an autoimmune disorder selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis and Type I insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus comprising an immunoglobulin or portion thereof linked to one or more T cell receptor antagonists wherein said immunoglobulin or portion thereof comprises at least part of a domain of a constant region of an immunoglobulin molecule and is capable of binding to an Fc receptor of an antigen presenting cell and said fusion protein being endocytosed by the antigen presenting cell wherein said fusion protein binds to newly synthesized MHC Class II molecules, forming a complex which migrates to said antigen presenting cell surface and engages autoreactive T cells specific for said T cell receptor antagonist and said T cell receptor antagonist is specific for autoreactive T cells associated with said autoimmune disease, to present said one or more T cell receptor antagonists in association with endogenous MHC Class II molecules, thereby preventing activation of autoreactive T cells specific for said T cell receptor antagonist.

22) (previously presented) A fusion protein of claim 21 wherein the immunoglobulin or portion thereof comprises a human IgG molecule or portion thereof.

23) (currently amended) The fusion protein of claim 21 wherein said one or more T cell receptor antagonists alleviates the symptoms associated with an autoimmune disorder selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, ~~lupis,~~ rheumatoid arthritis, ~~scleroderma,~~ Type I insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, and ~~ulcerative colitis.~~

24) (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 21 wherein the immunoglobulin or portion thereof comprises a humanized IgG molecule or portion thereof.

25) (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 21 wherein said one or more T cell receptor antagonists is derived from myelin basic protein.

26) (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 21 wherein said one or more T cell receptor antagonists is derived from proteolipid protein.

27) (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 21 wherein said one or more T cell receptor antagonists is derived from myelin basic protein and from proteolipid protein.